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A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2000

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Collecting Memorabilia Of Women In American Politics

Dee Dee Wacksman of Bay City interprets Amelia Bloomer and welcomes our guests.

On Sunday, October 15, 2000, ***Dr. Douglas Kelley*** *spoke to an audience of about 40 people, including Mayor Cheryl Farmer of Ypsilanti and State Representative John Hansen.*

Kelley, a retired Director of Extension and Continuing Education at the University of Michigan-Flint campus, has his own Democratic Political Archive based at his home in Ann Arbor. He has helped set up the Jimmy Carter Presidential Museum in Plains, Georgia and has been a good friend to the WCHS. A Michigan native, and a former Peace Corps volunteer, Doug has been collecting since he was 15. The Archive is a private museum open to visitors by appointment. Call 734-662-1731 to set one up.

Dee Dee Wacksman*, an Amelia Bloomer interpreter from Bay City, preceded his lively and witty talk. Dressed appropriately in "bloomers," Ms. Wacksman spoke of Bloomer's role in the suffrage movement in the 1850s. [Bloomers were actually Turkish trousers worn for hiking in Europe; Amelia simply popularized them in the US and they carry her name today]. Wacksman displayed a copy of Bloomer's publication* ***The Lily****, a newspaper promoting temperance and the abolition of slavery, which evolved into a suffrage publication. Wacksman also mentioned the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing, which honors Michigan women of importance in the state's history. One of these women was May Stocking Naggs of Bay City, who hosted Susan B. Anthony on one of her speaking tours. Naggs' home is well maintained and is sometimes open for tours.*

Dr. Kelley began by asking:

Are there any members of the League of Women Voters here? (show of hands); any members of the National Organization for Women? (more hands); Mothers Against Drunk Driving? (still more hands); Million Moms March for Gun Control? (you get the idea); The Hillary Clinton Fan Club? (lots of hands!); Daughters of the American Revolution? (some hands); WCTU? Republican or Democratic party women's organizations? (a few); Members of any other women's political organizations? (lots of hands). I think a panel discussion with representatives from all these women's political organizations would be very worthwhile, and I'd love to attend it.

In the 1830's Alexis DeToqueville, the wise French observer of our country, commented on the distinctive American tendency—not found in most other countries—to form voluntary organizations to work on every need, every problem, and every issue that arose. And it

(continued on page 2.)

November Program

Sunday, November 19th, Wystan Stevens will discuss his new book on Northfield Township. It will be held at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, 2945 E. Northfield Church Rd. at 2 PM.

Collecting Memorabilia Of Women (continued)

Doug Kelley speaks on collecting women's political memorabilia. This is the first lecture held at MoMS!

seems pretty certain we would not be observing the 80th anniversary of Woman Suffrage in America this Nov. 2nd had it not been for hundreds of local, state and national women's organizations who struggled—for nearly 80 years—to win the right to vote in 1920.

Dorothy and Carl Schneider, the authors of one of the many books on the Women's Suffrage Movement, observed that "Woman Suffrage did not come easily or cheaply to the United States. From 1848, when Elizabeth Cady Stanton first demanded votes for women, until the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, women paid the price of complete commitment: enormous efforts sustained for years; painful and repeated defeats; jeers and assaults by hoodlums; and the humiliation and physical suffering of jails, workhouses, beatings, and forced feeding."

But before we proceed with that subject, I think we should also pay tribute to the very able and hardworking women who have been providing nearly all the leadership of the Washtenaw County Historical Society, in whose long-dreamed of museum we meet today [Current President **Pauline Walters,** Immediate Past President **Susan Wineberg** and Past President **Patricia Austin** took a few bows]. This is the first meeting of the Society held in this museum!

In this talk I'd like to answer half a dozen questions, and then if there's time, respond to questions you may have. First, what's the importance of this subject and why does it matter? Second, how come a white male geezer like me is collecting and speaking on women in politics? Third, where do you find these collectibles? Next, what's in the exhibit that a viewer shouldn't miss? And finally, what should be said about those middle-aged males whose posters adorn the front parlor of this house — the presidential candidates who have carried Washtenaw County and/or Michigan in past decades? We'll deal with them last, if there is time, since women for all too long have had to wait for appropriate attention — not the inappropriate kind — from male political leaders.

When I taught an American government course, we discussed who could vote during the early years of our constitution. I drew a big square on the blackboard with a line down the middle of it, which divided the male half from the female half. Then another line across the square divided the white folks on top

Belva Lockwood ran for President in 1884 and couldn't vote for herself! She was the first woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court.

Currier and Ives' 'Lady Liberty' looks down upon the First International Conference on Women's Rights organized by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and held in 1888 in Washington DC.

from the African-Americans and Native Americans in the lower third. Then another line across, divided the on-top white males who owned land from the white males who did not own land. That little upper left corner—the white males owning land—were the only people entitled to vote in the early days of our republic. This could hardly be called a democracy.

So one important aspect of the march of democracy in our country has been the effort to expand the electorate. First we added the white males who didn't own property. Then we added African-Americans and Native Americans. In 1920 we finally added the more than 50% of our population which is female.

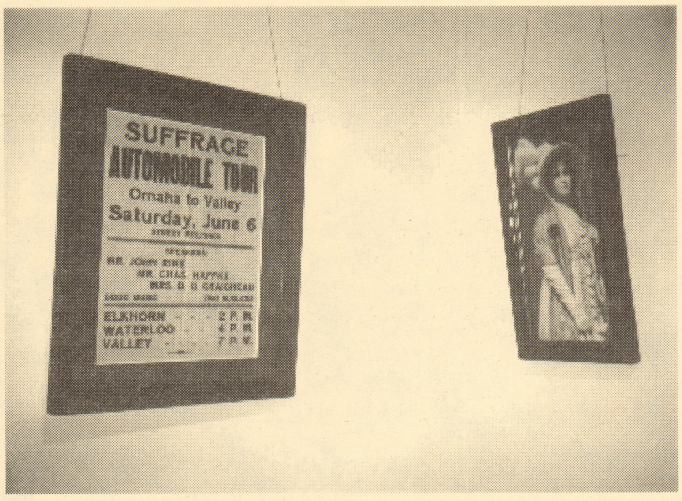
In the 1920's there may not have been much difference in the way males and females voted, but in recent years what's now known as the gender gap has become significant — but that's a subject for a different day. The importance of our subject is that the winning of votes for women ended the falsity of a nation claiming to be a democracy while denying the vote to over half its people. And today, women are showing such independence

in their voting as to make a distinctive impact on many local, state, and national elections.

Long ago, some of you may have seen Norman Rockwell's *Saturday Evening Post* cover (Fall, 1948) which showed a husband and wife vigorously discussing Presidential politics at the breakfast table, one obviously supporting Harry Truman, and the other Tom Dewey. Rockwell did a similar cover back in 1920, with one spouse supporting that year's Republican, Warren G. Harding, and the other the Democrat, James Cox. I'm still on the lookout for originals of those two covers.

As to why I'm speaking on this subject: my collection of Presidential memorabilia focuses on Presidential candidates of one party — which of course I won't mention — but also includes scores of items relating to women and African-Americans in American politics, the two major groups long excluded from participation in the political process. And anyone who had the several opportunities that I had to meet and listen to Eleanor Roosevelt—my first was at Hyde Park in 1946—could hardly fail to develop an interest in this subject of women in American politics.

Lucy's button sums it up: "Uppity Women Unite!"



Suffrage got to small towns in Nebraska. This item was found in London, England.

Where do I find these things? Good sources are antique shops, auctions, used bookshops, and especially, the frequent collector shows of American Political Items Collectors (APIC). There are nearly 3,000 members of APIC, and about 100 of them are very interested in woman suffrage items including buttons, posters, literature, clothing and other 3-D collectibles. The Women's Suffrage collectors have a quarterly newsletter called *The Clarion*. Their most active members are a NY stock broker who is female and a CIA staff member in Washington, DC who is male.

There are political collector shows every month of the year in some part of the country, and a national convention every two years. The next convention will be in Louisville, Ky. in August 2001. Items relating to women in American politics, especially the women's suffrage movement, are much sought-after at those shows, in which an entire motel ballroom is filled with tables covered with political memorabilia of all kinds.

As to items I hope you will be sure to notice, let's start with the women's suffrage items in the middle room. On the wall is a reprint of the ringing **'Declaration of Sentiments'** which Elizabeth Cady Stanton drafted for adoption by the 1848 women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y.—the first such convention in human history. Inspired by the style and content of Thomas Jefferson's Declaration of Independence, she listed women's legitimate grievances, as Jefferson had listed those of the American colonists:

"The history of mankind," she declared, "is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise. He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she has no voice. He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men — both natives and foreigners. Having deprived her of this first right of a citizen, the elective franchise, thereby leaving her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides. He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead. He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns. He has made her, morally, an irresponsible being, as she can commit many crimes with impunity, provided they be done in the presence of her husband. In the covenant of marriage, she is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, becoming, to all intents and purposes, her master — the law giving him power to deprive her of her liberty, and to administer chastisement."

Her list continued concerning the laws of divorce; the imposition of taxes; the denial to women of entry to college, the professions, and religious leadership; the imposition of a different moral code for men and women, "by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated but deemed of little account in man."

The Declaration insisted that women "have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of these United States," and expressed the hope that "this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country." Such conventions were indeed held on an annual basis.

Among the flat items on the table near the windows, note the 1859 *Harper's*

Weekly cartoons ridiculing participants in women's rights and abolitionist meetings. Also notice the clippings about Victoria Woodhull and Belva Lockwood, the two gutsy women who ran for President in 1872 and 1884, respectively, even though they couldn't vote.

On the other table, don't miss the ad for "Women's Suffrage Stove Polish," and the large framed picture on the wall of delegates to the first international conference on women's rights held in Washington, D.C. in 1888. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are both included. Above that woodcut is a Currier & Ives Lady Liberty, wearing the liberty cap which Americans adapted from those worn in the French Revolution. How ironic that our symbol for liberty was for so long female, when women could be arrested for trying to vote!

And don't miss the poster on the wall in the far right corner, advertising an automobile tour to Suffrage street meetings in small Nebraska towns — with "good music" — "Two buglers!" I found that poster in a small antique mall in London three years ago. The dealer said his British customers were disappointed it wasn't something from the British women's suffrage movement, items which are also highly collectible.

In this room, notice the Suffrage poster from 1915, when New York and several other states voted on the issue. I acquired that poster and about a dozen other very interesting paper items in a swapping deal with a Suffrage collector in California — a male who is very proud of his collection of 85 different women's suffrage buttons. He offered what I considered to be a treasure trove of Suffrage items, including that poster, in trade for that one 5/8ths of an inch celluloid-covered button from 1912.

This is one indication of how intense some Suffrage collectors are about their historic hobby. That button came from a bag of buttons urging "Votes for Women—Indiana." I was delighted to buy the 65 buttons for $100 and after learning of their rarity, I advertised them for $85 each in *The Political Bandwagon*, a monthly tabloid newspaper for political collectors. The phone started ringing with calls coming from all over the country. Some people wanted to buy two, or three — and in 3 or 4 months I was down to this one, for my own collection.

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote almost 20 books, had a syndicated news column for many years and traveled the world for better understanding. She stayed active in politics and stumped for Adlai Stevenson in 1956 (lower left photo taken by Doug Kelley).

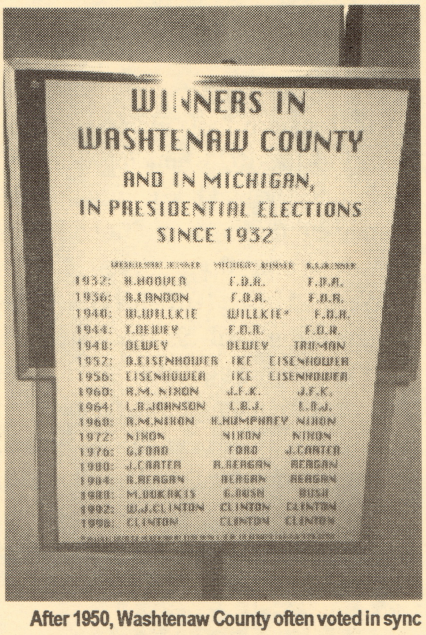
Let's turn now to Eleanor Roosevelt. I took this photo of her, on the lawn at Hyde Park, N.Y. in 1946, and she later signed it. Someone else in our visiting group of young people took this one — and I'm the kid in the white shirt munching on a sandwich. Bill Clinton has that famous photo of himself as a teenager shaking JFK's hand on the White House lawn — but there I am, not shaking hands but munching away while ER spoke quite eloquently. I hope my lunch wrappings weren't noisy.

Here's a close-up photo of Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1920's, when FDR was trying to recover from his 1921 polio disaster, and Mrs. Roosevelt was heading a Democratic National Committee concerned with women's issues. This photo of FDR and ER on election night in 1932 inspired this glamorized artist's version; and this photo shows FDR reading congratulatory telegrams with his Mother — the terrible Mother-in-Law — that same night.

This photo is of ER in her World War II American Red Cross uniform, rubbing noses in the traditional Maori greeting with a young woman in New Zealand. She signed it for "Jim" (perhaps Democratic Party National Chairman Jim Farley?). Eleanor Roosevelt wrote all of the books on this shelf, and this one — bought off the shelf in a Detroit used bookshop — was signed by her. Here is a campaign-type button that says only "Eleanor Roosevelt," and a card from an unknown source promoting the idea of nominating and electing her President, probably from the late 1940's. I took this photo showing ER wearing an "ADLAI" badge, while leading Adlai Stevenson into a meeting of the Michigan caucus at the 1956 Democratic National Convention, where he was nominated a second time for the Presidency.

Memorabilia of Republican women's groups includes a photo of Senator Margaret Chase Smith.

Here is a framed 1939 *New York Times* clipping announcing that ER had resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) for denying Marian Anderson the opportunity to perform in the D.A.R.'s Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. (Instead, as a result of intervention by Eleanor Roosevelt and Interior



After 1950, Washtenaw County often voted in sync with the rest of the country.

Secretary Harold Ickes, Marian Anderson sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, as pictured here by *Life* magazine.)

In her 1956 autobiography, entitled *My Lord, What a Morning,* Marian Anderson had this to say about Eleanor Roosevelt: "She is one of the most admirable human beings I have ever met. She likes to have first-hand information about the things she talks about and deals with. Her bags seem ready for travel at any moment. Wherever she goes there is praise for her and what she stands for. I suspect that she has done a great deal for people that has never been divulged publicly. I know what she did for me. Once when I was occupying the artist's room of a hall, the stage manager told me with great enthusiasm that Mrs. Roosevelt would occupy the same room two days later. And so on the large mirror I left a greeting, written with soap." Wouldn't you love to have that mirror, or to have read what was written on it?

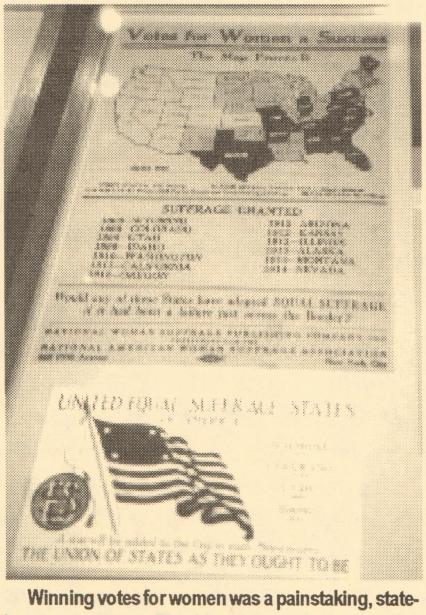
This large Eleanor Roosevelt poster is available for $8 from the Smithsonian's museum shop. The quotation on it reads: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." [I'll frame it, for the wholesale cost of the museum-type frame, for any of you who wish to order it.]

The case to my left includes items relating to other 20th Century women in the Republican and Democratic parties. It includes Senator Margaret Chase Smith and Congresswoman Clare Booth Luce for the Republicans, and Congresswomen Shirley Chisholm and Geraldine Ferarro for the Democrats.

Note from these pictures that when Eleanor Roosevelt became the first woman to address a Democratic National Convention in 1940, and Clare Booth Luce became the first woman to address a Republican National Convention in 1944, their photos both showed them in this pose [with finger wagging]. Those nearly all-male delegates clearly needed some talking to!

We have purposely not included any items from this year's campaigns of women candidates, but there are earlier Hillary Clinton items. Ann Arbor has the largest chapter anywhere of the Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club. It was begun in May of 1994 by Janine Easter, and has about 1500 signed-up members!

Scattered about are items relating to the League of Women Voters, the Million Moms March, and Mothers Against Drunk Driving. We can all be grateful for the healthy impact of such organizations, and wish them well in the years to come. Although not discussed in detail, the exhibit in the front parlor includes campaign posters for every Republican and Democratic Presidential nominee who has carried Washtenaw County and/or the state of Michigan in the years since Herbert Hoover and F.D.R. Also exhibited in the Dusseau room are political items from the permanent collection of the WCHS: a "Polk and Dallas" flag from 1844 and a Lincoln campaign torch from 1860 or '64. There are also two items from the 1868 campaign of Ulysses S. Grant: a unique "Grant & Colfax" kitchen colander, and a small "jugate" campaign pin with photos of both Grant and Colfax.



Winning votes for women was a painstaking, state-by-state process. The black states had votes for women by 1914.

In closing I'd like to show you two items which didn't make it into the exhibit: a cross-stitch pillow with the words "Give a man an inch and he thinks he's a ruler!" And this advice from Charley Brown's friend Lucy (on a button pinned to a Lucy): "Uppity Women Unite!"

Come Down And Visit

The wonderful exhibit of **political and women's suffrage memorabilia** from the **collection of Doug Kelley** will remain up until **November 28th.** We encourage you to come and see for yourselves the effects of our most democratic tradition. We are open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from noon-four. However, **President Pauline Walters** will not be greeting guests as usual. She had hip surgery and will be recuperating most of November. We know she will be back "at work" as soon as she can!

In December we will again be **decorating for the holidays** and plan to have our Open House with refreshments the weekends of **December 9-10, and 16-17**. Please make sure to stop by and visit our wonderful gift shop with history-oriented gifts and garden books.

Business Support

This month's issues of *Impressions* is co-sponsored by

STRATEGIES MARKETING & DESIGN

Around The Town

The **Kempf House** will again be celebrating a **German style Christmas Open House, December 2-3 and 9-10.** The tree will be decorated with German style ornaments and lebkuchen. The house will be open from 1-4 PM. The **Christmas Caroling Party** will take place on **December 1** at 7 PM, an annual tradition for over 20 years. Kempf House is located at 312 S. Division in downtown Ann Arbor. Call 734-994-4898 for more details.

Kempf House board members replaced the dining room light fixture with an 1890s gasolier reproduction fixture from Rejuvenation Lamp and Fixture Co. of Portland, OR. An authentic reproduction push button light switch has also been installed. The fixture actually boasts reproduction 1893 Edison lightbulbs!

Sally Bund, assistant archivist at the Bentley Library, will speak **November 16th** at 7 PM on "*The Legacy of Aubrey Tealdi*." Tealdi was a landscape architect and the first director of the Nichols Arboretum (1917-1934). The talk will be at the **Reader Center** (Burnham House) at the entrance to the **Arboretum** on Geddes Heights.

Bund will also be speaking at the **Detroit Observatory** on Tuesday, **December 5th** at 3 PM on "*Ann Arbor's Forest Hill Cemetery and the 19th Century Rural Romantic Cemetery Movement.*"

The Observatory is also now displaying recently acquired chairs that belonged to President and Mrs. Tappan, as well as new exhibit labels describing meteorology and seismology at the Observatory. They also have a new website which is easier to use: **http://www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu.** Check it out!

Anyone walking around the UM campus will be shocked at the construction vehicles and chain link fencing all over central campus. Mason and Haven Halls are being renovated and a 6-story building will be erected over the Fishbowl area. More changes involve:

Lane Hall (1917) on State Street in Ann Arbor has re-opened as the Center for Women's Studies. A month-long celebration is underway with many exhibits and concerts celebrating women and women's studies. On Friday October 20th a special open house was held to highlight the renovation of Lane Hall. Quinn-Evans Architects have done a fabulous job.

A book is also being released in conjunction with the rededication of Lane Hall. Entitled **Women's Voices: Early Years at the University of Michigan,** it was compiled from documents at the Bentley Library by Doris Attaway and Marjorie Rabe Barritt. It is based on memories of the 10,000 women alumnae who were surveyed in 1924. The book is available at the Shaman Drum Bookstore in Ann Arbor.

And don't miss the wonderful exhibit at the U-M **Clements Library** called **From the Cradle to the Grave: Sources for Women's History in the Clements Library.** The exhibit is open from 1-4:45 PM on weekdays and admission is free. The library is located at 909 South University. On Thursday, **November 9th** at 4 PM, **Professor Amanda Vickery** will be speaking on "*So Much for Linen, Now as to Politics': The Secrets of Women's Sources in 18th Century England.*" Beginning December 12th, there will be an exhibit on the **Jefferson- Hamilton Debates.** Call 734-764-2347 for more information.

Another building slated for change is **Lorch Hall**, the former A&D (Architecture and Design) Building. A 38,000 square foot addition will be added to the 1928 building designed by Lorch. The building now houses the Gerald Ford School of Public Policy as well as other departments.

West Hall (formerly West Engineering) will also be renovated. This 1903 building was Albert Kahn's first major building for the university. It is expected to take almost two years, so many departments will be relocated.

More Items Given To WCHS

Collections Chair Judy Chrisman reports that the Board accepted more donations of business ephemera from Susan Wineberg and Esther Warzynski. These included many items from the 1950s and 60s such as an Argus keychain celebrating its 25th year; a jewelry box from Chester Roberts; a pink thimble reading "For the Bestes See Herb Estes;" a paper bag from B.E. Muehlig; a 1920s green blotter from Weinberg and Kurtz on "How to Use Cement;" a Christmas gift box from Wagner's Ann Arbor; a Chelsea tie for its 125th Anniversary in 1959; a poster from Mich Con advertising cooking demonstrations in honor of Ann Arbor's Sesquicentennial in 1974; and a booklet from the Seven Seas Restaurant and Lounge in Ypsilanti. Judy says "enough already!" so we are no longer accepting such ephemera at this time.

If you wish to donate items to us, please contact Judy at 1809 Dexter, Ann Arbor. Or call 734-769-7859. Or e-mail Judychr@aol.com. If you have some wonderful business materials I'm sure we can make exceptions!

Future Programs

We take a break from programming in December and January and then start up again in February. All members receive post card reminders about our programs and directions as well as parking instructions. All programs are free and begin at 2 PM. Light refreshments are served afterwards.

Sunday • February 18th

A perennial favorite, **Dr. Russell Bidlack,** Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Library Science, will lecture on the cache of **John and William Geddes** letters he purchased last year. This will be held at the Bentley Library.

Sunday • March 18th

Peggy Haines, Washtenaw County Clerk and Register of Deeds (and WCHS Board Member!) will tell us about the election process and give a tour of the new County Annex Building at Ann and Main.

Sunday • April 15th

The **U-M Observatory** will host a tour for us and Director **Dr. Patricia Whitesell** will speak about the building and its role in the history of science at U-M.

Wednesday • May 16th

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held at **Webster Church** in Webster Township. Our speaker will be **Willah Weddon** of Stockbridge. A former journalist with the *Ypsilanti Press, Jackson Citizen Patriot, Lansing State Journal* and *Detroit Free Press,* she was a member of the Capitol Press Corps in Lansing and wrote about the First Ladies of Michigan. She has published four books on the First Families of Michigan and has won many awards for her publications.

Around The County

The **Dexter Museum** will be hosting a **family potluck and tree trimming** on **November 16th** at 6:30 PM. On **December 2nd** they will hold their **Holiday Bazaar** from 9-4 and on **December 15th** they will have their **Annual Christmas Sing**. All events are held at the Dexter Area Museum, 3443 Inverness. For more information call 734-426-2519. The Museum is, unfortunately, not handicap accessible.

The **Saline Area Historical Society's** speaker will be **Gary Skory,** President of the Midland County Historical Society, who will discuss the *phenomenon of salt*. For Saline, this is important! His talk will be on Wednesday, **November 15th** at the Saline Depot. The event is free. If you have questions call 734-429-9621. On Friday, **December 1**, the Society will be hosting its "*Celebrate Christmas in Saline*" from 5-7 PM. Visitors will find the Depot and caboose decked in simple holiday array. There will be free refreshments in the freight room. Regular hours at the Saline Depot are Saturdays, except holiday weekends, from 11-3 PM.

If you like to plan ahead, mark **January 12th** from 11-7 and **January13th** from 9-5, for the Society's **14th Annual Antique Show**. It will be held in the Block Building at the Farm Council Grounds on Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Hand picked dealers from Ohio and surrounding areas will offer genuine antique furniture and other sundry items. This is a major fundraiser for the Saline Historical Society. Admission will be $3.00. Call 734-429-3164 for more information.

The folks at the **Waterloo Farm Museum** will be hosting a **Victorian Christmas** event on **December 2 and 3.** Authentic decorations such as wreaths, greenery, ornaments, candles and feathers will be displayed. They have a wonderful gift shop where they will be selling candles, handmade toys, and their popular jars of bean soup mix. "Step back in time and enjoy Christmas on the farm!" The Museum is near Stockbridge. Call Diane Moulton at 734-426-9135 for directions.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** features **Randy Riley** of the Library of Michigan on **December 3rd.** He will be speaking on *Ships Passenger Lists.* All programs are held at the St. Joseph Hospital Education Center Auditorium at the 5305 Building. Parking Lot P is nearby. Call President Marcia McCrary at 734-483-2799 for more details.

Sculpture-On-Line

Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) announced that its report on 32,000 public sculptures in the U.S. is now available online. SOS! is a joint project of Heritage Preservation and the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Using volunteers organized by state, every outdoor sculpture in the country has been inventoried. Now these reports have been entered on the Smithsonian's database. You can search online for your favorite artist or sculpture at **http://AmericanArt.si.edu/study.**

How To Join

Send name, address and phone number with check payable to WCHS to: Treasurer, WCHS, P O Box 3336, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336. Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100. For information call (734) 662-9092 or e-mail us at WCHS MoMS@aol.com.

Love Dolls?

Nancy Goldstein has informed me that The **Ann Arbor Doll Collectors** welcome inquiries about membership. They meet the second Saturday of the month at 1 PM. Call Pat Girbach at 734-662-6676 for more information. This year's theme is "*The Well-Dressed Doll.*" Some of you may remember their wonderful exhibit at the Public Library last year. Their website is:

http://community/mlive.com/dollclub

The Garden Keeps A Bloomin'

Our intrepid gardener **Pat Thompson** reports that **Scott Kunst** of **Old House Gardens** on Third Street here in Ann Arbor, is donating $100 worth of bulbs and will also be giving us deep discounts on left over bulbs. Pat plans to plant 800 crocus (!) along the fences on both Beakes and Main St. in addition to tulips and other bulbs as well. Carpenter Lee Rohrer will use some of the oak planks we have in storage to build a raised area for a kitchen garden. Pat would also like to thank Pete Rocco for donating the PVC pipe to help with drainage problems from our driveway.

Speaking of drainage problems, we are still negotiating with the city to have our sump pump attached to the sanitary rather than the storm sewer. Variances were obtained in 1998 but obstacles still present themselves. **Karen O'Neal** is attacking the issue with her usual tenacity and we hope to get this problem solved soon, so that dangerous icy conditions do not continue to plague the Main Street sidewalk and our neighbors who have been long-suffering.

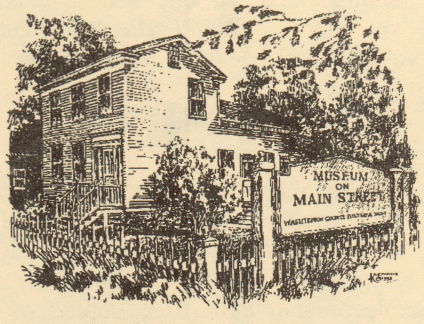
Another One Bites The Dust

I am sad to report that one of the buildings discussed by **Grace Shackman** last April in her talk on **Alden Dow** has been demolished. Dow designed the **Leonard Gas Station** in 1960 just after the main Post Office was built. They have grown up together and it's sad to see such a unique gas station disappear. Many interesting buildings from the 1950s and 60s on Stadium Boulevard are now obsolete, so we will be witnessing more of this I'm afraid.

You Measure Up

Treasurer Patty Creal reports that we have collected almost $3400.00 from our ruler request. I guess we really do measure up! Thanks to all of you for your continued support. We have many bills to pay and the money goes directly to support the Museum.

Speaking of support, we encourage our members to consider the Society when doing estate planning. The University of Michigan is now accepting 'charitable gift annuities' but we have been accepting them all along! They have been in existence for over 100 years and are one of the most simple life income plans available. Such a program provides a fixed income for life and consists of a simple contract under which we make fixed installment payments to a donor in return for a gift of cash or marketable securities. Consult your tax attorney for more details.



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